Claim 1, as currently presented, reads as follows:

1. (Previously presented) In an online messaging system supporting transmission of attachments, a method for automatically processing messages containing attachments, the method comprising:

specifying a preference for formatting attachments that accompany messages;

receiving a particular message having a particular attachment;

responsive to identifying the particular attachment as exceeding capabilities of an intended recipient's receiving device, removing the particular attachment from the particular message and inserting a link into the particular message, said link capable of referencing the particular attachment that has been removed;

delivering the particular message to the intended recipient; and

in response to invocation of the link by the intended recipient, retrieving a copy of the particular attachment that is automatically formatted based on the specified preference.

As correctly stated in the Office action, Rabe-Hesketh fails to disclose or suggest that the removing of a particular attachment is "responsive to identifying the particular attachment as **exceeding capabilities of an intended recipient's receiving device.**" The Office action combined Rabe-Hesketh with Gabrielsson to show this feature.

Gabrielsson is directed at a method of organizing incoming electronic messages for a user who can access her messages via at least two different types of access environments. Specifically, in Gabrielsson, the decision to "thin" an electronic message

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is based on predefined user preferences (Gabrielsson, Fig. 3; p. 13, II. 20-27), such that

a separate message version is created for each type of access environment

(Gabrielsson, p. 9, II. 14-17). Thus, in Gabrielsson, if the user specified preferences as

described with reference to Figure 5 and accesses the messages via an Ethernet

connection using a Netscape client, a message would be presented to the user in their

original format (Gabrielsson, p. 13, II. 28-32), even if the message includes an

extraordinary multimedia attachment that exceeds the capabilities of the user's access

environment.

In contrast, claim 1 recites "removing of a particular attachment" "responsive to

identifying the particular attachment as **exceeding capabilities of an intended**

recipient's receiving device."

Thus, Gabrielsson, whether considered separately or in combination with Rabe-

Hesketh, fails to disclose or suggest either "removing of a particular attachment" or that

that the removing of a particular attachment is "responsive to identifying the particular

attachment as **exceeding capabilities of an intended recipient's receiving device,"**

as recited in claim 1 and 51 as amended.

Because the combination of Gabrielsson and Rabe-Hesketh fails to disclose or

suggest each and every element of claim 1, claim 1, its dependent claims, are

patentable and should be allowed.

In the alternative Applicant suggests an amendment clarifying that "removing of a

particular attachment" is responsive to determining the intended recipient's receiving

device and responsive to identifying the particular attachment as exceeding capabilities

of an the intended recipient's receiving device, as indicated below.

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PAGE 4/6 * RCVD AT 12/12/2005 2:10:44 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/33 * DNIS:2733922 * CSID:408 720 1658 * DURATION (mm-ss):01-28

1. (Currently Amended) In an online messaging system supporting transmission of attachments, a method for automatically processing messages containing attachments, the method comprising:

   specifying a preference for formatting attachments that accompany messages;

   receiving a particular message having a particular attachment;

   determining an intended recipient's receiving device;

   responsive to determining the intended recipient's receiving device and responsive to identifying the particular attachment as exceeding capabilities of an the intended recipient's receiving device, removing the particular attachment from the particular message and inserting a link into the particular message, said link capable of referencing the particular attachment that has been removed;
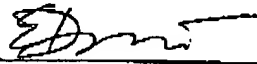
   delivering the particular message to the intended recipient; and

   in response to invocation of the link by the intended recipient, retrieving a copy of the particular attachment that is automatically formatted based on the specified preference.

   Applicant would like to thank Examiner in advance for granting a telephone interview at (408) 720-8300.

                                        Respectfully submitted,
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